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JOINT UNITED NATIONS/UNIDO CONFERENCE SERVICE

Report by the Director-General

1. In its decision IDB.8/Dec.38 the Industrial Development Board recommended that any change in the present conference service arrangements for the Vienna-based organizations would need to be examined in the light of the efficiency, economy and quality of services it would bring. That position was endorsed by the General Conference in decision GC.4/Dec.28, which also requested the Director-General to continue consultations with the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the most efficient and cost-effective conference service arrangements at the Vienna International Centre and to report to the Industrial Development Board at its eleventh session on the conclusions of these consultations.

2. In subsequent consultations with IAEA, that organization reiterated its position that its translation and related documentation requirements are too specialized to be considered for common service arrangements.

3. In a letter dated 21 January 1993, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management notified UNIDO formally of the United Nations' intention to terminate the joint conference service arrangements with UNIDO by the end of the 1994-1995 biennium. The UNIDO response to that notification included an indication of main issues to be resolved during preparation of a mutually-acceptable business plan for the transfer of administrative responsibility for conference services from UNIDO to UNOV. It was agreed that the two organizations would further study the options for such a plan and that the main responsibility for preparing the plan would rest with UNOV. UNIDO also reiterated its intention to seek the approval of its policy-making organs to the plan in order to facilitate its submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by April 1994.

4. Upon receipt of the proposed business plan from UNOV the Secretariat intends to proceed with finalizing the cost analysis in order to present its conclusions and recommendations to the policy-making organs.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to take note of the present report and to reaffirm that the future conference service arrangements should be oriented towards efficiency, economy and high quality of services.

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